Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

the direction and force of submarine currents can be accurately determined at any depth."

— Says the late Chauncy Wright in one of his essays: "According to Mr. Spencer's views, the first strata, had they been preserved, would have contained the remains of protozoa and protophytes; but, for aught we dare guess, they might have contained the foot-prints of archangels." Truth is stranger than fiction. What else can be the Carson footprints?

— The Cacao (*Theobroma cacao*) was some two hundred years ago extensively cultivated in Jamaica, but a hurricane that swept over the plantations, and high duties imposed in England, caused its growth to be discontinued. It is now in course of re-introduction, and it would appear that the Moisler valleys and hollows of the island are specially adapted to it.

— The British government has placed $20,000 at the disposal of the council of the Royal Society of London to aid scientific research. This is in accordanee with the custom of former years, and has been a healthy stimulus to scientific progress.

— We learn that Mr. R. E. C. Stearns has resigned his position as honorary curator of mollusca in the U. S. National Museum, on account of ill health, by the advice of his physician.

— Aristotle's "History of Animals" has been translated by Monsieur Bartholemy St. Hilaire, and the work will soon be published with preface, notes, and commentary.

— Professor J. Th. Reinhardt died at Copenhagen, October 23, aged 66. His works on birds and whales possessed great merit. He also traveled in Brazil, we believe. At the time of his death he was professor of zoölogy in the University of Copenhagen, and inspector of the Natural History Museum of that city.

— Dr. F. H. Troschel, professor of zoölogy at Bonn, and for many years one of the editors of the Archiv für Naturgeschichte, author of a treatise on zoölogy and of many papers, as well as a zoölogical artist of distinction, recently died at Bonn.

—Correction. On page 742, volume 16, eighteenth line, for "sub-connate" read sub-carinate.

——:o:——

PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

Biological Society of Washington, Nov. 10.—Communications were made by Professor J. W. Chickering, Jr., on the "Balds" of the southern mountains; by Professor C. V. Riley on the "Cluster fly," *Pollenia rudis;* by Dr. Geo. Vasey on the pines of North America; and by Dr. John A. Ryder on the rationale of the fattening process employed by oyster planters.

Nov. 24.—Communications were made by Dr. Elliott Coues on the present status of the avifauna of the District of Columbia; by

Professor C. V. Riley on jumping seeds and galls, with exhibition of specimens; by Dr. Thomas Taylor on the pear-tree blight, with illustrations; by Professor L. F. Ward on additions made to the Flora Columbiana during the season of 1882; and by Professor Theo. Gill on the Stromateidæ.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, Nov. 27.—A lecture on recent archæological discoveries relating to the mound-builders was delivered by Dr. J. S. Phené, of London, Eng.

Dec. 4.—The following papers were read: On the deposits of earth-wax (ozokerite) in Europe and America, by Mr. William L. Lay; The physical conditions under which coal was formed, by Dr. John S. Newberry.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, Nov. 15.—Dr. William B. Carpenter, F.R.S., of London, gave the result of his researches on *Eozoön canadense*.

Dec. 6.—Dr. Wadsworth read a paper by Dr. Alexis A. Julien, of Columbia College, on the Dunyte-beds of North Carolina; and the president (Mr. Scudder) gave an account of his explorations last summer in Colorado, and especially of the fossil insects found in some of the older rocks.

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, Dec. 4.—There was a discussion respecting the authenticity of the various portraits of Columbus, in which the president, Chief Justice Daly, and Mr. Nestor Ponce de Leon took part.

THE PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES, May 16.—Mr. Meehan called attention to the fact that in England the male flowers of the hazelnut had been perfected this year before any sign of the female flowers appeared. This was in accordance with his observations in this State. Mr. Canby remarked upon an exudation of moisture from the tips of the leaflets in *Akebia quinata*. An examination by Professor Rothrock disclosed an arrangement of the tissue at the apex of each leaflet, evidently adapted to such an exudation. Mr. Meehan said that the liquid globules of this plant appeared indifferently in the day or evening, in dry or moist weather. *Mahonia aquifolia* had on its flower buds, similar globules, which collected until they formed drops as large as peas among the dense head of flowers. An exudation occurs also in coniferæ, and probably the pollen grain is carried to the nucleus as the moisture is absorbed within the vesicle.

Mr. Meehan also exhibited a series of cones from different trees of *Pinus rigida*, showing a change of forms from the typical *P. rigida* to a cone that could scarcely be distinguished from *P. serotina*.

May 23.—Dr. Leidy spoke of *Bacillus anthracis* in the blood of a cow that had suddenly died. The Bacilli were more numerous than the blood corpuscles. Dr. Leidy also described a small worm found by him under stones at Media, Delaware county. Extremely like the common white worm, *Enchytræus vermicularis*, common in damp places, in flower-pots, under decaying leaves, or in marshy meadows, it differs from that species generically by the possession of two rows of setapeds instead of four. He proposed to name it *Distichopus sylvestris.* The intestine of Distichopus contained a Monocystis *(M. mitis).* The Enchytræus, instead of a gregarine, was infested, in different specimens, with two infusorians of the genus Anoplophrya *(A. modesta* and *A. funiculus* Leidy*)*, and an undetermined Lumbricus yielded a third species *(A. melo* Leidy*)*.

May 30.—Professor Leidy called attention to the abundance of the ant *Lasius interjectus* in the neighborhood of Philadelphia. It is habitual with this ant to care for an Aphis and a Coccus, both of which it guards in flocks. He described a particular nest under a flat stone, containing six distinct and closely crowded groups of the pale yellowish Aphis, and five of the red Coccus. Dr. Leidy also exhibited some transparent yellowish garnets and a colorless brilliant of tourmaline from St. Lawrence county, N. Y.

June 27.—Dr. H. Allen remarked that the pterylar tracts of birds were accompanied by an abundant supply of cutaneous nerves, and held that a study of these nerves would prove of value. In the anterior limbs of mammals, he had noticed that the deep muscles were supplied by long nerves, while the superficial muscles were supplied by short nerves. In Menopoma he had found a branch of the ulna nerve passing into the natatorial fold of skin upon the ulnar border of the forearm. In Menopoma the ulnar and musculo-spiral nerve arose from the same trunk, and he suggested as probable, that the deep connections of these nerves in the brachial plexus of man would be found to be constant. The ulnar nerve is distributed entirely to the hand and the muscles moving it, and is well developed in forms which lack the median, so that may be called the *manual* nerve. The muscles of the forearm that are supplied by this nerve, are singularly constant, are the most effective muscles in the backward movement of the manus in swimming and walking, and one, the *flexor carpi ulnaris*, makes tense that part of the bat's wing-membrane which lies between the manus and the body.

July 18.—Mr. Mehan exhibited a nest of the *Chaetura pelasgia*, made of cherry twigs fastened with gum, and suggested that the gum was probably cherry gum, and not, as stated by Audubon, a salivaceous secretion of the bird.

Miss Lewis said that she had, through a pipe-hole, watched a chimney-swallow at work, had seen it use its bill as a trowel, then wait for a further secretion, and then again work at adjusting the sticks.